

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, and 9-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended, and claims 1-3 and 5 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in canceled claim 5. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, the subject matter of claim 5 is incorporated into claim 4, and claims 1-3 and 5 are canceled. Claims 7 and 9-13 variously depend from claim 4. Thus, the rejections of claims 4, 7, and 9-13 are moot. Accordingly, allowance of claims 4, 7, and 9-13 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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